ADJOURNMENT MOTION

re: the issue of a Whip—Deputy President's Election.

Mr. President.—I have received from Mr. P. C. Varkey a notice to the following effect :—

> "I beg to give notice that I intend to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the issue of a whip said to have been made by the Government to their officers in connection with the election of the Deputy President today."

Before asking whether the Hon'ble Member has the consent of the House to move this adjournment motion, the Chair has to decide whether the motion is in order and within the terms of the Rules and Standing Orders. The rules relating to adjournment motions provide that the matter must be a definite matter of urgent public importance. The very wording of the motion shows that the matter contemplated by the Hon'ble Member is not definite. He goes on hearsay "the issue of a whip said to have been made by the Government". Therefore, the motion is void for want of definiteness. And apart from that, whether it is a matter of sufficient public importance as to affect the privilege of the Hon'ble Members of this House, is a matter which, I think, the Chair has to decide. Apart from even that point, even if the motion were admitted, it would be taken up for discussion under the rules at half-past three to-day; whereas the actual election of the Deputy President will take place just now. So that, if it is really the intention of the Hon'ble Member to bring this matter to the notice of the House as a question of breach of privilege, he will be entitled to do so by tabling a resolution to that effect. The motion is out of order. But since the motion has been brought up, I will ask the Hon'ble Government Member to make a statement of the Government's position on the point.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Sir, I am glad to have this opportunity of explaining the position of the Government relating to the exercise by the official members of this House of their right to vote on any question that come for the decision of the House. I may assure Hon'ble Members that in the matter of the election of the Deputy President Government have not put up any of their nominees to contest the election. The four Hon'ble Members who are candidates are the nominees of the non-official section of the House. When the time comes for voting, Government propose to reserve to themselves the fullest liberty

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to vote for the person who, in their opinion, is the best candidate. Government is entitled to this right and they do not propose to give it up. The exercise of this right by Government cannot in any sense be regarded as flouting the opinion of the non-official members of this House, especially as in this case there is no unanimity amongst the non-officials themselves.

In view of the peculiar position occupied by the official members of this House it is desirable, both in the interests of Government and non-officials, that the official block should keep aloof from any party or election manoeuvres. Except on matters where individual conscientious objection may be involved Government would instruct their officials as to the manner in which they have to vote. This is an undisputed right enjoyed by all Governments in every type of legislature and His Highness' Government propose to exercise this right unfettered.

Election of the Deputy President.

Mr. President.—The House will now proceed to the election of the Deputy President. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan now says that he withdraws his candidature. The other candidates are:—

(1) Mr. P. Raman Menon,
(2) Mr. A. Eachara Menon, and
(3) Mr. A. Sankara Menon.

The names of the Hon'ble Members will be called out by the Secretary. They will come to the table here, get a ballot paper, mark the vote and put it into the box.

The Ballot was likewise taken.

Mr. President.—The result of the voting is as follows:—

Mr. Sankara Menon—38 ;
Mr. Eachara Menon—10 ; and
Mr. Raman Menon—3.

Therefore there is no need for a second ballot and I declare Mr. A. Sankara Menon as duly elected as Deputy President.

General Discussion on the Budget.

Mr. President.—The House will now take up the General Discussion on the Budget. Hon'ble Members will please note that the time allowed for an Hon'ble Member is 20 minutes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Sir, I have first of all to withdraw my congratulations to the Government which I offered

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly